CLAIMS

1   1. A method of projecting open to buy inventory values, including:

2   setting inventory budgets for groups of items;

3   projecting future inventory for the items, utilizing current inventory levels for the
4   items, projected future sales for the items and projected future deliveries for the
5   items;

6   for a plurality of predetermined time periods, aggregating the projected future
7   inventory for the groups of items and calculating open to buy values from the
8   inventory budgets and the aggregated projected future inventory; and

9   reporting the open to buy values.

1   2. The method of claim 1, further where in the projected future deliveries include
2   notional deliveries for the items, based on the projected future sales for the items
3   unconstrained by the inventory budgets.

1   3. The method of claim 1, wherein the projected future sales for the items are
2   weekly projected sales.

1   4. The method of claim 3, wherein the weekly projected sales are adjusted for
2   causal events happening during a weekly projection period.

1   5. The method of claim 3, wherein the weekly projected sales are adjusted for a
2   promotion during parts of one or more weekly projection periods.

1   6. The method of claim 1, wherein the projected future sales for the items are daily
2   or more frequent projected sales.

1   7. The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected sales for the
2   items are corrected for stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

1   8. The method of claim 6, wherein the projected future inventory the items is

2   corrected for stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

1   9. The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected sales for the

2   items are corrected for in dates and out dates associated with the items.

1   10. The method of claim 9, wherein the in dates and out dates associated with the

2   items are set for respective selling locations associated with the items.

1   11. The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected sales for the

2   items are corrected for last purchase order receipt dates associated with the items.

1   12. The method of claim 11, wherein the last purchase order receipt dates associated

2   with the items are set for respective stocking locations associated with the items.

1   13. The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected sales for the

2   items are based on predetermined sales shares and location profiles for respective selling

3   locations associated with the items.

1   14. The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected sales for the

2   items are corrected for optimal markdowns of fashion or seasonal goods.

1   15. The method of claim 14, wherein the optimal markdowns are received from an

2   optimal markdown routine and utilized in calculating the projected sales and the

3   projected future inventory.

1   16. The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are projected for ends of

2   the plurality of predetermined time periods.

1   17. The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are projected for

2   beginnings of the plurality of predetermined time periods.

1   18. The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are projected based on

2   peak inventory during the plurality of predetermined time periods.

1   19. The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are projected based on

2   average inventory during the plurality of predetermined time periods.

1   20. The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar

2   months.

1   21. The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar

2   months.

1   22. The method of claim 18, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar

2   months.

1   23. The method of claim 19, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar

2   months.

1   24. The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal

2   months.

1   25. The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal

2   months.

1   26. The method of claim 18, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal

2   months.

1   27. The method of claim 19, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal

2   months.

1   28. The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly

2   periods.

1   29. The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly

2   periods.

1   30. The method of claim 18, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly

2   periods.

1   31. The method of claim 19, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly

2 periods.

1   32. The method of claim 6, wherein the projected future inventory are corrected for

2 stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

1   33. The method of claim 6, wherein the projected future sales are consistent with

2 presentation quantities for the items at respective selling locations associated with the

3 items.

1   34. The method of claim 6, wherein the projected future sales are determined with

2 reference to a causal calendar of events.

1   35. The method of claim 6, wherein the projected future inventory takes into account

2 planned promotions.

1   36. A method of prorating inventory budgets among items, including:

2   setting inventory budgets for groups of items;

3   projecting future sales for the items;

4   setting notional deliveries for the items, utilizing the projected future sales

5   unconstrained by the inventory budgets;

6   projecting future inventory for the items, utilizing current inventory, the projected

7   future sales, firm future deliveries and the notional deliveries;

8   prorating the inventory budgets among the items, for a plurality of predetermined

9   time periods; and

10   reporting open to buy values that compare the prorated inventory budgets for the

11   items or aggregations of the items to the projected future inventory for the items or

12   aggregations of the items.

1   37. The method of claim 36, further including:

2   calculating reduced notional deliveries for the items consistent with prorated open to

3   buy inventory budgets; and

4   calculating lost sales for the items based on the reduced notional deliveries.

1   38. The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels are constrained by

2 lead time for ordering and obtaining delivery of the items.

1   39. The method of claim 37, wherein the notional delivery levels are constrained by

2 lead time for ordering and obtaining delivery of the items.

1   40. The method of claim 36, wherein the projected future sales for the items are

2 projected on a daily or more frequent basis.

1   41. The method of claim 37, wherein the projected future sales for the items are

2 projected on a daily or more frequent basis.

1   42. The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels are constrained by

2 lead time for ordering and obtaining delivery of the items.

1   43. The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels are based in part on

2 optimal stocking levels.

1   44. The method of claim 37, wherein the notional delivery levels are based in part on

2 optimal stocking levels.

1   45. The method of claim 43, further including reporting the projected future

2 inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

1   46. The method of claim 44, further including reporting the projected future

2 inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

1   47. The method of claim 44, further including reporting values of purchase orders

2 that have been placed but not fulfilled for the items having the projected future inventory

3 levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

1   48. The method of claim 45, further including reporting values of purchase orders
2   that have been placed but not fulfilled for the items having the projected future inventory
3   levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

1   49. The method of claim 44, further including reporting values exceeding minimum
2   order quantities of purchase orders that have been placed but not fulfilled for the items
3   having the projected future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

1   50. The method of claim 45, further including reporting values exceeding minimum
2   order quantities of purchase orders that have been placed but not fulfilled for the items
3   having the projected future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

1   51. The method of claim 36, wherein the projected future sales levels are based in
2   part on desired in stock levels.

1   52. The method of claim 36, wherein the projected future sales levels are based in
2   part on optimal stocking levels.

1   53. The method of claim 36, wherein the projected future sales levels are corrected
2   for stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

1   54. The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels are consistent with
2   presentation quantities for the items at respective selling locations associated with the
3   items.

1   55. The method of claim 43, wherein the notional delivery levels are consistent with
2   presentation quantities for the items at respective selling locations associated with the
3   items.

1   56. The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels determined with
2   reference to a causal calendar of events.

1   57. The method of claim 43, wherein the notional delivery determined with reference
2   to a causal calendar of events.

1   58. The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels take into account

2   planned promotions.

1   59. The method of claim 43, wherein the notional delivery levels take into account

2   planned promotions.

1   60. The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels are consistent with

2   minimum order quantities for the items.

1   61. The method of claim 43, wherein the notional delivery levels are consistent with

2   minimum order quantities for the items.

1   62. The method of claim 36, wherein the prorating is based on the projected future

2   sales.

1   63. The method of claim 62, wherein the projected future sales include any projected

2   lost sales due to stockouts for the item.

1   64. A method of analyzing projected open to buy values, including:

2   setting open to buy inventory budgets for groups of items;

3   projecting daily or more frequent sales for the items;

4   projecting future inventory for the items, utilizing current inventory of the items, the

5   daily or more frequent projected sales for the items and projected deliveries for the

6   items from orders already placed;

7   for dates within the lead time required to order and receive delivery of the items,

8   calculating lost sales due to inadequacies in the projected future inventory;

9   rolling up the from the items to the groups of items calculated lost sales and

10   projected future inventory; and

11   reporting the lost sales and open to buy values for the groups of items.

1   65. The method of claim 64, wherein the projected daily or more frequent sales for

2   the items are determined with reference to a causal calendar of events.

1   66. The method of claim 64, wherein the projected future inventory for the items are

2   determined with reference to a causal calendar of events.

1   67. A method of projecting open to buy inventory corrected for component

2   inventory, including:

3   setting inventory budgets;

4   projecting future inventory for items, utilizing current inventory levels, projected

5   future sales for the items and projected future deliveries for the items; and

6   for a plurality of predetermined time periods, aggregating the future inventory for the

7   items and reporting open to buy values that compare the future inventory to the

8   inventory budgets;

9   wherein the future inventory is segregated between salable inventory and component

10   inventory used to make for salable inventory.

1   68. The method of claim 67, further including reporting unfilled need for component

2   inventory.

1   69. The method of claim 67, wherein the projected future sales are consistent with

2   any unfilled need for component inventory.

1   70. The method of claim 67, wherein the projected future inventory is compared to

2   an optimal model stock inventory unconstrained by the inventory budgets, and any excess

3   inventory is reported as an overstock.